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Occupational Employment and Wages in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, May 2016

Workers in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$24.21 in May 2016, above the nationwide average of \$23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 8 of the 22 major occupational groups, including sales and related; community and social service; and management. Eight groups also had wages that were measurably lower than their respective national averages, including construction and extraction; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; and personal care and service.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups including office and administrative support; computer and mathematical; and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 13 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including management; production; and education, training, and library. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	United States	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$23.86	\$24.21	*
Management	5.1	4.1	56.74	62.21	*
Business and financial operations	5.2	5.5	36.09	37.99	*
Computer and mathematical	3.0	4.1	42.25	43.32	*
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.9	40.53	43.20	*
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4	35.06	33.73	-4
Community and social service	1.4	0.8	22.69	25.16	*
Legal	0.8	0.7	50.95	55.13	*
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.5	26.21	24.75	*
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.2	28.07	26.56	*
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.3	38.06	37.81	-1
Healthcare support	2.9	2.4	14.65	15.08	3
Protective service	2.4	2.2	22.03	20.80	-6
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	9.3	11.47	11.39	-1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.7	13.47	12.27	*

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	United States	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	Percent difference(1)
Personal care and service	3.2	2.7 *	12.74	11.62 *	-9
Sales and related	10.4	11.0 *	19.50	22.29 *	14
Office and administrative support	15.7	18.4 *	17.91	18.43 *	3
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	13.37	11.20 *	-16
Construction and extraction	4.0	4.1	23.51	19.69 *	-16
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2 *	22.45	21.93 *	-2
Production	6.5	5.7 *	17.88	17.01 *	-5
Transportation and material moving	6.9	7.9 *	17.34	18.89	9

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington had 625,950 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 18.4 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.7-percent national share. The local average hourly wage for this occupational group was \$18.43, measurably higher than the national average of \$17.91.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included general office clerks (99,740), customer service representatives (86,000), and stock clerks and order fillers (51,770). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers, as well as executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants, with mean hourly wages of \$30.87 and \$28.22, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$10.43) and tellers (\$12.82). (Detailed occupational data for the office and administrative support group are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_19100.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, cargo and freight agents were employed at 2.8 times the national rate in Dallas-Fort Worth area, and reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks, at 2.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, tellers had a location quotient of 1.0 in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares matched.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area included 14,200 establishments with a response rate of 52 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2016 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016

Occupation(1)	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level(2)	Location quotient(3)	Hourly	Annual(4)
Office and administrative support occupations.....	625,950	1.2	\$18.43	\$38,330
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers.....	37,920	1.1	30.87	64,210
Switchboard operators, including answering service	2,680	1.2	13.04	27,120
Telephone operators.....	50	0.2	20.23	42,070
Communications equipment operators, all other.....	(5)	(5)	18.26	37,990
Bill and account collectors.....	12,740	1.8	20.26	42,150
Billing and posting clerks.....	13,200	1.1	17.96	37,350
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	39,620	1.0	20.20	42,020
Payroll and timekeeping clerks.....	3,770	1.0	21.46	44,630
Procurement clerks	1,700	1.0	20.52	42,670
Tellers	11,870	1.0	12.82	26,660
Financial clerks, all other.....	1,230	1.5	20.91	43,480
Brokerage clerks	1,810	1.2	26.77	55,690
Correspondence clerks	350	2.1	17.56	36,520
Court, municipal, and license clerks.....	2,110	0.7	19.62	40,800
Credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks	2,060	2.3	19.23	40,000
Customer service representatives.....	86,000	1.3	17.33	36,040
Eligibility interviewers, government programs	2,370	0.7	19.20	39,930
File clerks	4,290	1.4	16.98	35,320
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	5,000	0.8	10.43	21,690
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan.....	3,310	0.7	16.54	34,400
Library assistants, clerical	1,460	0.6	12.24	25,460
Loan interviewers and clerks.....	13,140	2.4	23.01	47,850
New accounts clerks	1,380	1.4	17.01	35,380
Order clerks	8,460	2.0	18.32	38,110
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	3,590	1.1	19.61	40,780
Receptionists and information clerks.....	17,300	0.7	13.13	27,300
Reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks.....	8,740	2.5	20.25	42,120
Information and record clerks, all other.....	3,530	0.9	19.10	39,720
Cargo and freight agents.....	6,140	2.8	23.03	47,910
Couriers and messengers	1,940	1.1	14.49	30,140
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers.....	1,770	0.8	19.69	40,960
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance.....	5,780	1.2	19.00	39,520
Meter readers, utilities	580	0.7	16.06	33,410
Postal service clerks.....	1,280	0.6	24.49	50,940
Postal service mail carriers	6,450	0.8	24.75	51,480
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	3,190	1.2	24.79	51,560
Production, planning, and expediting clerks.....	11,040	1.4	23.83	49,570
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks.....	22,760	1.4	14.37	29,890
Stock clerks and order fillers	51,770	1.1	12.96	26,960

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	(5)	(5)	13.99	29,090
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants.....	11,020	0.7	28.22	58,690
Legal secretaries	4,590	1.0	24.59	51,150
Medical secretaries	28,110	2.1	15.81	32,880
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, & executive.....	44,920	0.8	17.51	36,420
Computer operators	1,610	1.4	21.84	45,420
Data entry keyers	6,070	1.3	14.74	30,670
Word processors and typists	530	0.3	18.36	38,190
Desktop publishers.....	410	1.3	21.26	44,210
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	15,540	2.3	19.62	40,810
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	2,580	1.2	14.45	30,050
Office clerks, general.....	99,740	1.4	17.06	35,480
Office machine operators, except computer.....	2,230	1.6	16.62	34,570
Proofreaders and copy markers	80	0.3	18.73	38,970
Statistical assistants	140	0.5	28.23	58,710
Office and administrative support workers, all other	3,470	0.7	20.88	43,420

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_19100.htm.

(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(5) Estimates not released.